

WHAT IS HOMEOPATHY?

J. T. CONQUEST, M.D.

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WHAT IS HOMŒOPATHY?  
AND IS THERE ANY, AND  
WHAT AMOUNT OF TRUTH IN IT?

BY

J. T. CONQUEST, M.D., F.L.S.,

OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON: CONSULTING PHYSICIAN  
TO THE STOKE NEWINGTON AND STAMFORD HILL DISPENSARY: PHYSICIAN  
TO THE CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL, THE LONDON FEMALE PENI-  
TENTIARY, THE LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM, AND MANY YEARS LECTURER ON  
THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

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*Μεγα βιβλιον μέγα κακον*

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Unlimited scepticism, is equally the child of imbecility, as is implicit  
credulity. *Dugald Stewart.*

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# WHAT IS HOMŒOPATHY?

AND IS THERE ANY, AND

WHAT AMOUNT OF TRUTH IN IT?

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THE especial objects of this monograph are to excite enquiry and elicit truth. It aims at nothing more; and contains little that may not be found in the erudite tracts of Dr. Sharp, and in the valuable works of Everest, Horner, Epps, Henderson, and many others.

Its contents will be objected to equally by Homœopaths and Allopaths—the former will denounce them as most defective, and exhibiting but a very partial and limited representation of what they profess to advocate; and the latter as conceding far too much to what they stigmatize as a system of folly and imposture—forgetting that nothing proves more certainly the feebleness of an argument than mere confident assertion, associated with ridicule, contempt, and abuse.

A man who has attained his three-score years and ten, may, without presumption, form, and express an opinion, on a matter which is of paramount importance to the well-being of society, and which cannot have failed to engage his attention: and should such an one deem the principles and practice of Homœopathy in the slightest degree deserving of calm and candid investigation, even if he be an unbeliever in globules and infinitesimal doses of medicine, he will be at once condemned by many who are too prejudiced to investigate a system opposed to their long cherished views and habits.

Without at present giving any decided opinion of Homœopathy, the writer would solicit such persons not to stultify themselves, by hastily condemning that to which they have never given five minutes candid and unprejudiced thought, or submitted to the test of experiment; and of which they are consequently altogether unfitted to form or pronounce an opinion: yet these are the very men who are so lavish of their epithets of humbug, charlatanism, knavery, &c. &c.

Moreover, not a few of these persons are so unacquainted with what they rashly condemn, that, if asked, what is Homœopathy? will, without any consideration, pronounce it to be The administration of infinitesimal doses of medicines in the form of globules or tinctures—being really or professedly ignorant of the fact, that the quantity of the medicines given, be it large or small, has nothing whatever to do with the term, which merely implies, that, if a medicine, when administered to a person in health, produces symptoms similar to any known disease, a comparatively small dose of that medicine is its best adapted remedy or, as a modern writer says—In order to cure disease in a mild, prompt, safe, and durable manner, it is necessary to choose in each case a medicine that will excite a similar affection to that against which it is employed, so that any one not blinded by prejudice, must admit that the quantity of medicine administered, whether given in a globule or tincture, or in any other form, has nothing to do with the principle of Homœopathy; and, it is well known that some of the most successful Homœopathic practitioners, whilst they prescribe them in very small doses, yet frequently employ the most potent medicines in a concentrated form.

The merest tyro in our public schools knows that the term Homœopathy is derived from the Greek words *ὁμοίως*



and *παθος*, and the doctrine is illustrated by the paraphrastic motto,

Similia similibus curantur,—  
Likes by likes are cured.

Some one forcibly says, A law in therapeutics applicable to all diseases would constitute the greatest imaginable discovery in medicine. And Sydenham gives expression to a similar sentiment, when he affirms What we want is some fixed and definite method of healing—I mean such a line of practice that has been based and built upon a sufficient number of experiments, and has in this manner been proved competent to the cure of this or that disease. Homœopathy lays claim to this definition, and its principles and practice, including the efficacy of small doses, are simply matters of truth or falsehood.

It is affirmed that Homœopathy presents certainty in presenting a *law*, and it is maintained that this law is *universal*; and that all medicines acting curatively, do so in accordance with the principle embodied in this law, each one being specific to the given disease, of which, if taken by a healthy person, it produces the resemblance.

This Homœopathic law is the rendering definite, in regard to the use of remedies, the principle put forth so clearly by the celebrated John Hunter—As I reckon every operation in the body an action, whether universal or partial, it appears to me, beyond a doubt, that no two actions can take place in the same constitution, nor two local diseases in the same part, at the same time.

Homœopathy admits of the same proof of its veracity as the law of specific gravity discovered by Archimedes, or the laws of gravitation by Newton, or the Atomic theory by Dalton, all of which are based on undeniable facts and experiments. An eminent philosopher has declared that Principles, built on the unerring foundation of observation and

experiment, must necessarily stand good till the dissolution of Nature itself; and, if Homœopathy be a law of Nature, its simplicity and certainty must eventually secure its universal adoption.

Solomon says, There is no new thing under the sun,—a truth, never more fully established than by the *re-introduction* of the principles and practice of Homœopathy, which were recognised and practised by Hippocrates some centuries before the birth of Christ, as appears in his work on Cholera Morbus, a disease treated by him successfully with small doses of veratrum, (hellebore) one of the most drastic purgatives known. In the translation of his works, published by The Sydenham Society in 1849, we also find it asserted by him that atropa mandragora (male mandrake) will produce suicidal mania, which is best cured by very small doses of the same article. He also remarks, vol. i., page 771, Warm water, which excites vomiting, will put a stop to it by removing the cause. And he is not alone amongst the ancients; for, in a Sanscrit poem, published fifty-six years before the Christian era, is found a proverb involving the principle of Homœopathy:—It has been heard of old time in the world, that poison is the remedy for poison. The Homœopathic system is therefore manifestly no novel system, as is ignorantly affirmed, for in all ages, in the works of the most eminent ancient, as well as modern practitioners, may be discovered the recognition of the very principle on which Homœopathy is based.

It is very painful, and truly humiliating to take a retrospect of the *past*, and to reflect on the *present* condition of medical science. In all by-gone days, and even now, the profession has been distracted by theories and systems, as opposed to each other as light is to darkness, and yet they have been adopted or condemned by men of equal talent and attainments. To the enquirer after truth these conflict-

ing systems have often been so bewildering, that he has had no alternative, but to take refuge in scepticism or empiricism.

Progression is a law of the God of Nature, and we discover it in all His arrangements; but, it is lamentable and surprising, that whilst surgery and almost every other department of science, with practical and experimental philosophy have been steadily progressing until they have approached perfection, and are governed by established and universally admitted laws, the principles and practice of medicine remain as indefinite, unsettled, and even contradictory, as they existed centuries ago.

No one can deny that since the days of Hippocrates very little improvement has been made, and that what he then said applies with as much force and propriety to modern times: Those things which one administers, thinking they are the best, another holds to be bad; and Galen affirms with equal truth, and equal applicability to our day: The science of medicine is little better than a mass of contradiction and confusion.

The absence of fixed principles has ever been, and is at the present time, greatly felt, and much to be deplored; and, as a natural consequence, the practice of men of equal ability and standing in their profession has been on many points absolutely antagonistic. A thousand illustrations and proofs of the truth of this statement might be given, but one or two only may suffice.

Rheumatic fever is treated by some men of eminence with citric acid, or lemon juice, and by others of no less celebrity with carbonate of soda! So also, one class of men urge depletion in the very cases in which another class give quinine and diffusivo stimulants. These are not mere gratuitous assertions, but positive and undeniable facts, and many of us can call to mind, and even took a part in the disgraceful controversies, and even personal hostilities which



at one time prevailed, particularly in Edinburgh, amongst the followers of Cullen and Brown, who advocated diametrically opposite principles and practice.

It is well known that Stohl and Hoffinan, both Professors in the same University, adopted principles and treatment directly opposed to each other,—and, in our own times, Clutterbuck and Armstrong, two men of the highest standing in our profession, and who influenced many, differed in every point of doctrine and practice, *one* insisting on blood letting in almost every disease, and the *other* as vehemently condemning it. Some medical men, even now, bleed in almost every inflammatory affection, while others seldom or never abstract a drop of blood, but, instead of withdrawing the vital fluid which is so essential to the restoration of the constitutional powers enfeebled by inflammation, they diminish the force and frequency of the action of the heart, and the consequent increased circulation through the diseased organ, by antimony, foxglove, nitrate of potash, and other remedial means, which observation and experience have taught will, by subduing inordinate arterial action, accomplish the same object, without impairing the vital and restorative powers of the constitution.

What has been advanced on the conflicting and opposite theories adopted by medical men, applies with equal or greater truth to the medicines they administer. Thus, as has been already stated, some exhibit large doses of the alkalies under precisely the same circumstances as others give acids. Dr. James Johnson, in his work on the Diseases of Tropical climates, recommends as the basis of all successful treatment, bleeding and calomel, whilst Dr. Dickson asserts that bleeding and calomel are the most deadly enemies in a tropical climate. And perhaps there never was a time when more conflicting opinions of the nature and practice of disease existed than at the present

day—an illustration and proof of which may be given by referring to the Medical Times and Gazette, of February 19, 1859, where we find, recorded by all the Physicians of King's College Hospital, cases of *Acute Pneumonia*, in which the skin was hot and dry, the tongue foul and parched, the respiration 52, the pulse 128, associated with crepitation, bronchus, sibilus, and bronchophony, and yet treated successfully by ammonia, chloric æther, opium and brandy!!

One of the physicians of this hospital observes elsewhere: On few subjects, is there such diversity of opinion as upon the effects of remedies or disease, their modes of action, and the best method of administering them. Pinel says, The *Materia Medica* is nothing but a confused heap of incongruous substances, possessing for the most part a doubtful efficacy; and nothing is perhaps more just than the reproach which has been attached to it. Bichat writes, Its formulas are as absurdly conceived as they are fastidiously collected. Dr. Paris, the late president of the Royal College of Physicians, in a lecture delivered at the College, says, We cannot cast our eyes over the articles prescribed without being forcibly struck with the palpable absurdity of some, the disgustingly loathsome nature of others, and the total want of activity in many—so many humiliating memorials of the credulity and infatuation of the physicians, who commended and prescribed them. On another occasion he remarks, The file of every apothecary would furnish a volume of instances where the ingredients are fighting together in the dark, or at least are so adverse to each other as to constitute a most incongruous and chaotic mass. Dr. Mason Good, in speaking of the treatment of *Laryngismus Stridulus*, tells us to produce vomiting by antimonial emetics; perspiration by the same medicine with diluents and the warm bath; excite the bowels by a purgative of calomel; allay the irritability of the nervous system by laudanum; and produce counter irritation by applying a blister to the

throat! This forcibly reminds one of Molière's assertion that More persons die of their remedies than of their diseases.

Many medical men, who thoughtlessly and violently condemn the system of Homœopathy, daily practice it themselves, when they give rhubarb, or some other mild aperients in diarrhœa, or gentle emetics for the removal of vomiting, or treat cerebral and spinal derangement with such potent medicines as strychnine in very minute quantities, all of which, if exhibited in large doses to persons in health would produce effects very similar to those they are proved to be capable of removing; and yet these very men shrink from fully and consistently carrying out what they partially and practically sanction. And where is the surgeon who is ignorant of the fact that a frozen limb is most surely and safely restored to its healthy functions by cold applications, and an inflamed surface by warmth and moisture; or that scalds and burns are most successfully treated by such heating applications as alcohol or turpentine, or by such a stimulating ointment as that suggested by Dr. Kentish, and actually recommended by the Royal College of Physicians in their Pharmacopœa? And, although there may not exist sufficient evidence to justify the declaration that articles in themselves perfectly innocuous, and which may be taken into the stomach in any quantity without inconvenience, beyond that produced by their bulk and weight, such as chalk, coffee, &c., do undergo some mighty change from the mere division of their particles, yet it cannot be denied, that one striking illustration and example is found in mercury, any quantity of which, in its crude state, may be taken into the stomach, with only the mischief produced by its weight, yet, when triturated with a conserve, as in *pilula hydrargyri*, or with chalk, as in *hydrargyrus cum creta*, becomes one of the most potent preparations in the *Materia Medica*: and the highest authority (Mr. Phillips, in his translation of the London Pharmacopœa,) says he failed in repeated experiments



to detect an oxide, and was compelled to conclude that the mercury exists only in a state of minute *division*. This is a very notable fact. And is it in any degree straining an inference to affirm that this may be regarded as a type of what is said to occur in the preparation of Homœopathic medicines, whereby the cohesion of particles is destroyed, and a very small dose, by co-operation with the vital principle of the constitution, which is striving to overcome disease, accomplishes more than a large dose?

Professor Daubeny, of the University of Oxford, alludes to the unquestionable efficacy of certain mineral waters, although they contain only one grain of Iodine in ten gallons of water, and Doctor Paris not only refers to the same object, but affirms That extreme pulverisation assists the operation of all substances, when their active principles are not easily soluble.

Nothing has been more clearly established than that an infinitesimal portion—an intangible imponderable particle of ipecacuanha will produce in some persons all the most distressing features of catarrh, nor can we be surprised at this, when we call to mind, that Herepath and others have detected the 60,000th part of strychnine, when dissolved; and Sir R. Kane affirms that 1,000,000,000,000th (a billionth) of a grain of silver may also be detected in solution. Fontaine's experiments are equally demonstrative of the almost incredible divisibility, as well as activity of poisons.

A consistent and successful Homœopath is not necessarily, a believer in the marvellous or rather miraculous powers of a billionth or quadrillionth of a grain of chalk or coffee; but, as in every thing else, truth will be found midway between the extremes of belief in ridiculous, baseless, and unsustained assertions, and the total denial of indisputable facts.

Under disease, the part affected becomes so modified in its condition, and so susceptible of physical agency that a

dose of medicine, which in health would be taken with impunity, or with scarcely any sensible effect, would, under disease, produce effects, or make an impression hazardous to the vitality of the organ, which, in this morbid condition, is impressible by a very much smaller dose of the appropriate remedy. Losing sight of this is one cause of the failure of ordinary quantities of medicine, and sometimes of the aggravation of disease. All that by these remarks is attempted to be established is illustrated by referring to what no one will deny—that a part in health which will bear motion or pressure or friction without pain, may have its sensibility so increased by inflammatory action that the slightest movement, or weight, or rubbing, will produce extreme suffering; so, under disturbance of function, or change of structure, an organ may have its condition so altered, and its susceptibility so increased, that a very minute dose of appropriate medicine, such as would make no impression in health, may produce palpable and most beneficial effects when such parts are in a state of diseased action or disorganization.

Sir Astley Cooper was accustomed to rely on half and quarter grain doses of *hydrargyrus eum creta*, and Dr. Wilson Philip on the eighth of a grain of *pilula hydrargyri* three times a day, in cases in which other men would prescribe five grains; and let any one try these doses in some cases of congested liver, and he cannot fail to be struck by their beneficial effects, far exceeding those in which a full dose of calomel or blue pill is administered. These are what may be termed medicinal doses, under such a condition as we have just assumed, and whilst their power must be admitted in reference to mineral and vegetable poisons, yet the question may be left open as to whether innocuous substances such as coffee, chalk, charcoal, &c. acquire, as it is affirmed they do, new and almost miraculous powers when separated by trituration or solution: but how little do we

know of the particles of caloric evolved by rubbing two sticks together till ignition takes place, or of particles of light, or electricity, or magnetism, all of which are imponderable and intangible,—still no one can deny their existence.

Were Homœopathy only the *do nothing* system, which it is affirmed to be by some opponents, even then its recognition and adoption would be one of the most signal blessings conferred on mankind since the introduction of physical evil; for, there can be no doubt that multitudes of lives are destroyed, and more rendered wretched by the pernicious habit of incessantly taking poisonous ingredients into the stomach for the most trifling complaints, most of which would disappear were we to rely on the restorative powers of the human constitution, inherent in every living body, and which if depended on in association with those means which common sense dictates in reference to diet, exercise, change of air and clothing, would, I firmly and conscientiously believe, bring to a favorable termination many or most of those ailments of life which admit of cure.

The late venerable and venerated Provost of Magdalen College, Dr. Routh, when he had entered his hundredth year, took every opportunity to impress his friends with the truth of Lord Bacon's opinion, that All medicines shorten life; and he affirmed that he owed the prolongation of his own life, and his exemption from most of the painful attendants on old age to his avoidance of physic; and many, aye, most medical men of the past, and present times have in advanced years been driven to consult with an eminent court physician of the last century, who said, When I began practice, I thought I had many remedies for every complaint, but I have learned by painful experience that there exist many, for the removal of which I have not a single remedy.



In the debate in the House of Lords on the Medical Practitioners' Bill, Lord Ebury stated that Dr. Baillie, on his death bed, doubted whether the medicines he had prescribed had not done more harm than good. Dr. Chambers, in an oration at the College of Physicians, referring to Dr. Williams, said, The deceased had no confidence in medicine; and an eminent physician now living, has written, The present practice of medicine is so unsatisfactory, that I do hope some new school may be set on foot.

Boerhaave said: If we compare the good which half-a-dozen true disciples of Æsculapius have done, since their art began, with the evil that the immense number of doctors have inflicted on mankind, we must be satisfied that *it would have been infinitely better if medical men had never existed*. Sir John Forbes says: I have, indeed, no doubt that a portion of the deaths supervening to disease treated by art are the direct produce of that art. Addison, in the *Spectator*, said: We may lay it down as a maxim, that, when a nation abounds in physicians, *it grows thin of people*, and this body of men in our country may be described like the British army in Cæsar's time, *some of them slay in chariots and some on foot*. Dr. Reid has said: More infantile subjects are perhaps daily destroyed by the pestle and mortar, than in ancient Bethlehem fell victims in one day to the Herodean massacre.

It may be fairly asked—what are the advantages of Homœopathic principles and practice over those of the Antipathic and Allopathic systems, the first of which, though affording relief, does little more than mask or smother disease, whilst the latter, by setting up temporary or artificial sufferings, cures by most painful and offensive agents, and often leaves the constitution in an exhausted and impaired condition; whereas Homœopathy professes to be far more rational, scientific, successful, certain, and agreeable,

and exempt from the frightful and distressing consequences produced by the Antipathic and Allopathic remedial means, often worse than the complaint removed.

Only a knave or a fool would affirm that Homœopathic remedies are always successful, and it would be as monstrous to deny, and the denial would justify the strongest condemnation, were any man to assert that there are not many cases in which Antipathy and Allopathy can and do cure disease, and more in which they may be auxiliaries to Homœopathic practice.

Exclusive Homœopathic principles and practice would deprive us of many invaluable remedial means; and, on the other hand, no impartial observer will deny that Homœopathic agents are decidedly useful in many cases in which Allopathic practice has failed. Take as an illustration those purely nervous complaints, in which there may exist some abnormal condition of the sensorial functions, without any evidence of change of structure. In such cases Homœopathic medicines are often of great value. So, also, nothing but ignorance, or pride, or prejudice will deny the efficacy of counter irritation, or aperients, in relieving and removing congestive diseases, whether active or otherwise.

The day is manifestly approaching when a gradual amalgamation of the different systems will take place, and when every consideration will be sacrificed to the elucidation and claims of *truth*, which has always eventually triumphed over banter and abuse. Anything but candour, and impartial investigation, and experience, are beneath the dignity of science. Homœopathic principles and practice ask for nothing more, and will be satisfied with nothing less. Let us only have *the truth*, no matter whence it may come and whither it may lead. Dr. Routh, the stern foe of the globule, says :

This system (of Homœopathy) has unfortunately lately made, and continues to make such rapid progress in this

country, and the metropolis in particular, and is daily extending its influence, *even amongst the most learned*, and those whose high position in society gives them no little moral power over the opinions of the multitude, that *our profession is, I think, bound to make it the subject of inquiry and investigation.*

The medical evidence in support of the truth of Homœopathy is such that it is impossible to withhold assent to this testimony, if the number, the ability, and the integrity of the witnesses are permitted to have the consideration they deserve.

As regards the number of the witnesses. The medical men, who have avowedly embraced Homœopathy, are now to be met with in every civilised country throughout the world. In many of these countries, it is true, they form, as yet, only a small minority, but the aggregate number must constitute a considerable body. In this country there are at present many hundred. In the United States of America there are already two Homœopathic Universities, and upwards of three thousand legally qualified Homœopathic practitioners.

And, as regards ability, it will be sufficient to observe, that, for the most part, they are converts from the ranks of regularly educated physicians and surgeons. They have been engaged, for a longer or shorter period, in the practice of their profession according to the usual methods, and it may be fairly presumed that they possess at least an average amount of professional skill and experience. In support of this opinion it may be remarked, that, among them, there are nearly thirty professors in various European Universities, nearly fifty medical and court counsellors, and at least twenty court physicians. These last are attached to members of the courts of Austria, Prussia, Russia, Spain, Naples, Belgium, Hanover, and the smaller German States.

What then are the recorded admissions and indisputable



proofs of the superiority of Homœopathy over other systems? They would fill a volume, but a few only can be referred to. Dr. Routh in his *Fallacies of Homœopathy*, admits that in pneumonia the deaths under Homœopathic treatment were only 6 per cent. as contrasted with 24 per cent. under ordinary treatment; in pleuritis as 3 to 13; in peritonitis as 4 to 13; in dysentery as 3 to 22.

He gives the statistics of hospitals in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Vienna, Leipsic, and other places. The following appears to be the general result in all diseases:—

	Admitted.	Died.	Mortality. per cent.
Allop. hospitals—Grand total...	119,630	11,791	10·5
Hom. ditto                    ditto ...	32,655	1,365	4·4

Here, again, the results are astounding, and the wonder is, that the entire medical body have not been startled by them, and it is no less strange that the whole civilized world have not been roused into the most intense solicitude in a matter which so intimately concerns them.

Inquiry will naturally be excited as to Dr. Routh's method of getting over the difficulties he himself has created. The plan is simple: he accuses the Homœopathists of selecting their cases—that is, of wilful fraud; and of false diagnosis, or mistaking the nature of the diseases—that is, of gross ignorance! If this be true, the solution is perfect; but it must be proved. The allegations are serious, as brought against a vast body of reputable men; and in setting them forth Dr. Routh has incurred a very grave responsibility.

Wylde in his work, *Austria and its Institutions*, affirms, that during the prevalence of Asiatic Cholera in Vienna in the year 1836, the mortality in the Homœopathic hospital was as 33 per cent., contrasted with 66 in the general hospital. In Edinburgh, Liverpool, and Newcastle, during the

prevalence of Cholera in 1849 the comparative mortality was about the same; and every one familiar with the statistics of the frightful seourge which visited Ireland in the form of famine in 1847, when fever and dysentery were desolating some of its fairest provinces, will call to mind, that Dr. Kidd, who is no empyrical Homœopathie practitioner, but a man of science and veracity, perilously to himself, undertook to visit some of the most pestilential districts, and to treat those diseases on Homœopathie principles under the most unfavorable circumstances, when to famine were superadded filth and privations of every description; and what was the result? In the Bantry Union Hospital, under the able and kind care of Dr. Tuekey, with all the advantages supplied by suitable diet, warmth, and nursing, the deaths from fever were 13 per cent., and from dysentery 36; whilst Dr. Kidd treated the same diseases, and at the same time, in the miserable, and in many cases, almost roofless mud hovels of his patients on Homœopathie principles, and with Homœopathie medicines and the deaths were but 2 per cent. from fever, and 14 in dysentery.

In private practice the results are said to be equally astounding, and yet they are met by the vulgar arguments of abuse and incredulity—but surely something is due to the averment that scarcely any one has fairly tested the principles and practice of Homœopathy without becoming a convert to their value, and an advocate for their adoption. Are *all* rogues, or knaves, or fools, who practice on Homœopathic principles?

Under this system, in the selection of an appropriate remedial agent, for the mitigation or cure of any complaints you are first to ascertain what medicine when administered in health will produce similar symptoms to those presented in disease, and you will have the remedy adapted to the complaint under which the patient may be suffering. A few illustrations must suffice.

Camphor, belladonna, and ammonia, taken by some persons in health, will produce efflorescence of the mucous membrane of the throat and skin, *ergo*, when taken in small doses, they are adapted to the mitigation or cure of scarlatina, erysipelas, and other analogous affections. These articles of the Materia Medica, and especially belladonna, phosphate and copper, will be found on Homœopathic principles, to exercise marked influence over paroxysms of whooping cough, acting as they do in health on the pharyngæal nerves, when their exhibition in large doses will excite spasms of the pharynx. In mania and amaurosis belladonna is invaluable, and equally so in erysipelas, as may be tested by one grain of the extract in eight ounces of water, of which half an ounce may be given to an adult every four or five hours with manifest benefit. Some years since, several cases of erysipelas were reported in the *Lancet*, as successfully treated with belladonna on Homœopathic principles by Mr. Liston, at the University Hospital, at the suggestion of Dr. Quin.

Rhubarb, veratrum, and many other aperient medicines, which in large doses stimulate the bowels, as certainly in small doses restrain inordinate action. Arsenic and the bichloride of mercury will produce dysenteric symptoms of the most formidable character, and even similar to Asiatic Cholera in the state of collapse, and therefore on Homœopathic principles are found of decided benefit in the removal of dysentery, and cholera. Both these medicines will also produce most troublesome skin discases, and yet in small doses will remove them; but such doses must be too small to lead to any of the specific and distressing affections which would follow their exhibition to a person in health.

Dr. Routh and others affirm that peruvian bark will with many persons excite all the characteristics of intermittent fever, and every one admits it to be a remedy for the cure of that disease. Aconite in a full dose will excite spasm of the



bronchial tubes, symptoms strictly analogous to those which attend croup, and this medicine is found, in all such inflammatory and spasmodic affections, to be of marked benefit in cases hitherto supposed to require the use of the lancet. In the *Journal of the Provincial and Medical Association* for June, 1855, Dr. Routh, who, as before observed, is an avowed opponent to Homœopathy, says, The pulse must be reduced in frequency, and I believe the surest means to effect this is to give aconite. I seldom, if ever, bleed in inflammation of the lungs. Braithwaite, in his valuable *Retrospect*, vol. xxxii., pages 96 and 97, says, Aconite is a remedy to be preferred to blood-letting, because, whilst it is equally powerful in its action, it has the advantage of sparing the patient's blood for the future contingencies of the disease. This is a remedial agent greatly relied on by Homœopathic practitioners, and first employed by them five and twenty years ago, and only they who have tried it as a remedy are competent to give an opinion of its powers. A number of physicians at Vienna took medium doses of aconite for experiment sake, and in total ignorance of what they were taking. The President of the Society alone knew what it was, and yet inflammatory fever appeared in a most marked degree with several of them. This experiment is conclusive, with numerous others, as well as in the cases of children, that the imagination, to which many cures are referred, can have nothing to do with the well-attested cases of recovery from disease under Homœopathic treatment.

Pneumonia, on the authority of the Majendie, follows the use of six or eight grains of tartar emetic, and many of the most able practitioners depend on that article of the *Materia Medica* beyond all others for the subjugation of that disease. Every one admits that mercury, when injudiciously administered, will excite one of the most intractable affections of the throat and skin (*eczema mercurialis*), and therefore it is relied on in small doses for the cure of eruptive complaints,

and the affections of the mucous membrane. The same medicine will produce enlargement of the glands of the throat, as well as malignant ulceration, and no remedy is found more effectual in the treatment of mumps and ulcerated sore throat. Iodine in full doses produces aphonia, and inflammatory irritation of the larynx, and hence it is the sheet-anchor of the ablest Homœopathists in cases of croup. The late Dr. Periera affirmed that nitric acid will excite salivation, and it is the most certain medicine we can employ for its removal. Every one knows that the Spanish fly will produce strangury, and in minute doses that distressing symptom is effectually relieved by it, on the authority of Hippocrates and others. Homœopathists affirm that if 20 grains of ipecacuanha will produce vomiting, the 100th part of a grain will often cure it, and before condemning it let any one test its efficiency in children labouring under sickness and disturbed bowels, not referable to disorganization, but clearly to disordered function, and its effects are often marked and beneficial. Phosphorus will induce violent inflammation of the mucous membrane, and therefore it is found to be invaluable in all chronic affections of the fauces and bronchial tubes. Sulphur and the Harrowgate waters, if injudiciously used, frequently produce a very troublesome form of skin disease, which may be certainly removed by the same medicine administered in small doses. Copper in any form has been followed by frightful spasm of the intestinal canal, and consequently is a well adapted medicine for its relief. The inhalation of the vapour of iodine will produce all the local symptoms of diphtheria, and is therefore likely on Homœopathic principles to be, as it is in croup, a very valuable remedy. Strychnia and phosphorus will induce frightful disturbance of the stomach, brain, and spinal chord, and yet in minute doses they are invaluable in the removal of those symptoms which are traceable to cerebral and spinal irritability.

I do not consider it at all necessary to go to the Homœopathic Pharmacopœia for remedial agents, believing that all the practitioner may require will be found in the Pharmacopœias of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

Referring to what has been before advanced that a diseased part is in so modified a condition, that a comparatively small dose of medicine will make a very marked and beneficial impression on it, and that the medicine to be selected is one which, if exhibited in a full dose to a person in health, will produce symptoms similar to those presented in disease, we possess a rule to guide us in the selection of the most appropriate remedial means, and their suitable dose, or such as are best adapted to the features of the complaint to be removed.

That Homœopathic principles and practice will eventually overcome all that ignorance, prejudice, and pride oppose to their universal adoption, and effect that mighty revolution in medical practice, which will be attended by prolongation of life, and increased comfort of existence, I have no more doubt of, than that I now pen this prediction; because *magna est veritas et prevalebit*; but before this is accomplished, and these inestimable blessings secured to mankind, Homœopathic practice must be taken out of the hands of those benevolent, but professionally uneducated and inexperienced individuals, who, prompted by the purest motives, and impelled by the kindest intentions, imagine themselves competent to cure all complaints with Homœopathic medicines, destitute as these kind-hearted people must be of those qualifications, which nothing can confer but long continued observation of the essential difference of diseases, which assume external and general similarity at the onset; and of the varying phases of every complaint in its successive stages, independent of numerous other considerations, embracing an acquaintance with the laws of human life, of which but a



very imperfect knowledge can be obtained even by those who have devoted to their acquisition years of anxious study and conscientious observation at the bed-side of suffering humanity.

It may well be supposed I have not ventured to give in my *qualified* adhesion to the principle and practice of this system, without due consideration. I have counted the cost, and, after a lengthened and prosperous professional career, from which I have partially retired, I am fully prepared for all the obloquy, inseparable from an avowal of my sincere although *not unqualified*, belief in Homœopathy.

Anything new, or, if not new, that has been lost sight of for a time, has always exposed its advocates and adherents to pity and contempt, and even persecution, and more especially so when the *multitude* disbelieve it. What can be more illustrative of this, and what more humiliating than the persecution of Galileo, because he promulgated the revolution of the earth round the Sun, which every one now believes; or of the inveterate opposition to Newton's system of gravitation, long after its proof; or the malignant and disgraceful conduct of medical men, not only as individuals, but in their collective association, when Harvey made known his discovery of the circulation of the blood—and, to come to modern times, when Vaccination (which is one of the truest examples of a Homœopathic agent) was introduced by Jenner, and found to diminish the virulence and mortality of one of the most loathsome and fatal diseases that ever desolated the world, the benevolent men who advocated its adoption, and who nobly encountered the obloquy by which they were assailed, were charged with being guilty of a heinous crime, and some estimable persons declared from the pulpit, that Vaccination was a diabolical invention of Satan, and those who practised it were impious and profane persons.

And, in conclusion, if the opinions and prejudices of the bulk of mankind are to be accepted as an evidence of the

worthlessness of what may even be of priceless value, what *multitudes* are to be found in our own highly favoured and enlightened country, who practically deny the inspiration of Christianity, or who profess to disbelieve and reject its doctrines and disclosures, although they are fraught with temporal and eternal blessings of inappreciable worth to all mankind.

FINIS.

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